

DISTRIBUTED MEDICAL IMAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed diagnostic imaging system and method includes a data processor coupled to a variety of diagnostic imaging components through a network. The diagnostic imaging components include acquisition devices that are used to obtain diagnostic imaging signals, displays on which obtained images can be viewed, and control units that are used with either acquisition units or displays to control the manner in which an image is obtained or displayed. The distributed nature of the system makes it relatively easy and inexpensive to upgrade or modify individual imaging components, and allows the businesses of selling, distributing, and upgrading an imaging lab, and obtaining and reviewing diagnostic images to be conducted in a novel manner, such as by costing an imaging procedure on a “per use” or “per imaging application” basis.

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